

Rev. Master Jiyu-Kennett
and the Water of the Spirit

Rev. Zenshō Roberson

What I remember most clearly about Rev. Master is her teaching on the Water of the Spirit and her showing of the Water in the example of her training. During the time that I knew her I was consistently aware of the Fountain flowing fully when she was giving Dharma talks, celebrating ceremonies and at other times. It wasn't about her personality. She used to say that when you get self out of the way you become like a pipe through which the Water of the Dharma flows, "You are not the Cosmic Buddha and there is *nothing* in you that is not *of* the Cosmic Buddha."

The Water of the Spirit moves in each of us whether we are aware of It or not. When we get a glimpse of peace and serenity in meditation, this is a hint of the Water's movement which can be understood more clearly and deeply if, through contrition—the effort to cleanse the karma of this life and purify the subtler defilements inherited from previous lives—one comes to the Unborn with an open mind. In both the lay and monastic ordination ceremonies, this is demonstrated by the master's asperge of the disciple following the recitation of the confession verse.¹ Rev. Master writes in much detail about how karmic blocks are cleansed in *How to Grow a Lotus Blossom*. I know from experience that these teachings are accurate and very useful.

Rev. Master had the kenshō that she describes as the opening of her lotus blossom beginning in 1976. From then on she continued to write regularly for the *Journal* and to teach monks and lay trainees; she founded the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives, started the Lay Ministry Program, the Pilgrimage of Returning Home and many other things. I know without question that her training and teaching continued right up to, and beyond, the moment of her death. All the teachings that she gave from when she opened her lotus blossom through the twenty years that followed are the founding, and foundational, teachings of our order. They are given for all of us. All of these come out of her decision to follow where the Precepts, as the Water of the Spirit, lead, and her decision to show this

Way to others.